

JSW



**PATENT**

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Application No. : 09/529,257 Confirmation No. : 5277  
Applicant : MASAKAZU ONIZUKA, et al.  
Filed : April 11, 2000  
TC/A.U. : 1764  
Examiner : Jennifer Leung  
Docket No. : 037083.48707  
Customer No. : 23911  
Title : WET GAS DESULFURIZING APPARATUS TO  
DESULFURIZE EXHAUST SMOKE

**REPLY UNDER 37 CFR § 1.111**

**Mail Stop NON-FEE AMENDMENT**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In response to the Office Action dated January 22, 2004 (the "Office Action"), please consider the following remarks.

Claims 1 and 4 remain under examination in the present application, and prompt allowance thereof is respectfully requested in view of the following remarks.

Claims 1 and 4 were rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) over Tamaru (JP 08-000950) in view of Johnson (US 2,931,580). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 1 relates to a wet-gas desulfurizing device that removes oxides of sulfur from combustion exhaust gas by scrubbing the combustion exhaust gas with an absorption liquid which contains an alkali. The device includes a branch